

CLAIMS

1. A method of providing network copy protection for database programs operating in a computer network, said method comprising:

5 sending a request for connection, said request being sent by a first database program to a second database program operating on said computer network;

 determining whether another copy of said first database program is connected to said second database program; and

10 granting said request for connection to said first database program when said determining determines that another copy of the guest database program is not connected to said database program.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said determining is performed by said
15 second database program.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises;
 registering said first database program with said second database program
 when said determining determines that another copy of the first database
20 program is not connected to said database program.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:
 denying said request for connection when said determining determines
 that another copy of the first database program is connected to said second
25 database program.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said method further comprises:

generating an error message when said determining determines that another copy of the first database program is connected to said second database program.

5

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said error message is displayed by said first database program.

7. A method as recited in claim 1,

10 wherein said request includes an identifier which identifies said first database program.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said determining of whether another copy of said first database program is connected to said second database program comprises:

15 looking up said identifier in a list of one or more identifiers which are respectively associated with one or more database programs that are connected to the second database program.

20 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein said method further comprises:

adding said identifier to said list of identifiers when said determining determines that another copy of said first database program is not connected to said second database program.

10. A method as recited in claim 1,

wherein said request is sent as session information; and

wherein said session information includes a licensing identifier associated with said first database program.

5

11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said first database program and said second database program respectively operate on different platforms.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein one of said different platforms is a

10 Windows platform and another one of said different platforms is a Macintosh platform.

13. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said first and second database programs respectively use different connection protocols to connect to said

15 computer network.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein said different connection protocols can be TCP, AppleTalk, or IPX.

20 15. In a computer network, a first database program suitable for accessing data stored in a database,

wherein said first database program is capable of providing access to a second database program connected to said computer network, said access being provided to allow said second database program to access said data stored
25 in a said database,

wherein said first database program is capable of detecting whether said second database is a software copy of another database program, and

wherein said second database program and another database program are operating in different platforms.

16. A database program as recited in claim 15, wherein said platforms are
5 Windows and Macintosh operating environments.

17. A database program as recited in claim 14, wherein said second database program and said another database program use different connection protocols.

10 18. A database program as recited in claim 17, wherein said connection protocols can be selected from a group consisting of TCP, AppleTalk, and IPX.

19. A database program as recited in claim 15, wherein said first database program can operate as a guest database program.

15 20. A method of providing network copy protection for database programs operating in a computer network, said method comprising:

sending an installation code identifier with session information to a host database program, said session information being sent by a guest database
20 program to said host database program;

determining whether said code identifier is in a list of connected guests, said list of connected guests including one or more installation code identifiers which are respectively associated with one or more guest database programs that are connected to said host database program; and

25 establishing a connection between said guest and host database programs when said determining determines that said code identifier is not in a list of connected guests; and

not establishing a connection between said guest and host database programs when said determining determines that said code identifier is in a list of connected guests.

- 5 21. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said method further comprises:

displaying an error message by the guest database program when said determining determines that said code identifier is in said list of connected guests.

- 10 22. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said host database program can act as a host database program.

23. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said guest and host database programs respectively operate on different platforms.

15

24. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein one of said different platforms is a Windows platform and another one of said different platforms is a Macintosh platform.

- 20 25. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said guest and host database programs respectively use different connection protocols to connect to said computer network.

- 25 26. A method as recited in claim 25, wherein said different connection protocols can be TCP, AppleTalk, or IPX.

27. A computer readable media including computer program code for providing network copy protection for database programs operating in a computer network, said computer readable media comprising:

computer program code for sending a request for connection, said request
5 being sent by a first database program to a second database program operating on said computer network;

computer program code for determining whether another copy of said first database program is connected to said second database program; and

computer program code for granting said request for connection to said
10 first database program only when said determining determines that another copy of the guest database program is not connected to said database program.

28. A computer readable media as recited in claim 27, wherein said computer program code for determining is performed by said second database program.

29. A computer readable media as recited in claim 27, wherein said computer readable media further comprises:

computer program code for registering said first database program with
said second database program when said determining determines that another
20 copy of the first database program is not connected to said database program.

30. A computer readable media as recited in claim 27, wherein said first database program and said second database program respectively operate on different platforms.

31. A computer readable media as recited in claim 27, wherein one of said different platforms is a Windows platform and another one of said different platforms is a Macintosh platform.

